

REVISITING THE CHESED-EL SYNAGOGUE IN SINGAPORE

By Robert W. Case

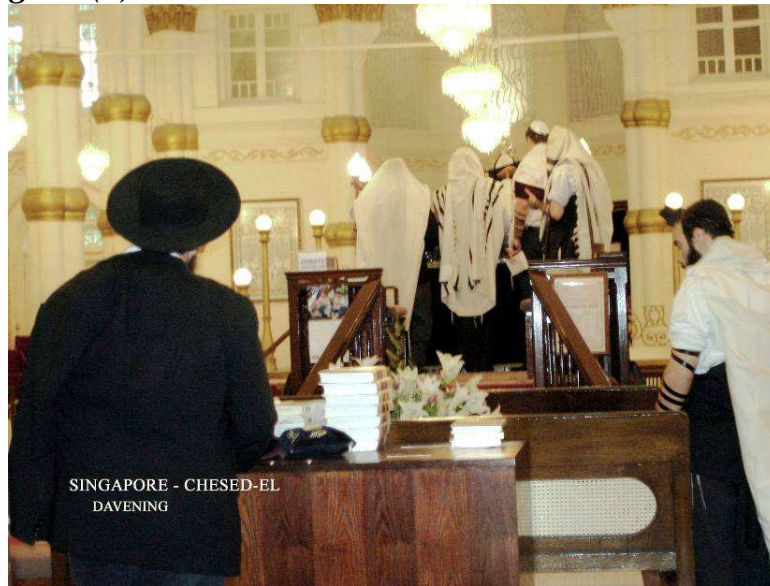
After the frustrating time we had trying to visit this beautiful Synagogue the last time we were in Singapore, Once I knew I was returning , I immediately tried to contact someone at the synagogue to arrange for a visit. I had written letters, faxes, and etc. all with no response! Out of sheer desperation, I contacted American Express concierge and explained the problem. In about a week, I received an e-mail from Rebecca Rott, who is very active in Synagogue activities (Please see article: “*A lady named Rebecca*”) who made arrangements for me and our traveling companions to attend services, which are only held on **Monday mornings** starting at 7; 30 am, and ending at 8:30a.m., after which a breakfast is served for the congregants. Services are held on Monday here, due to the fact that if the Synagogue was not used, the government would force a sale of the property, since it is a most desirable residential location !

Singapore-Chesed El Synagogue



The Synagogue is orthodox, and was completed in 1905, and was designed in Palladian style. It has a seating capacity of 370; although the morning we attended there were approximately 30 men. Most of the men wore “*Tfillin*” we were asked to lay tfillin, but politely refused. *Figure (2)*

Figure (2)



Most of the congregants are local businessmen, interspersed With many young orthodox Jews from Israel. The picture shown below shows the beautiful interior of the synagogue.





Breakfast immediately following services. The pancakes were the best!



Front view of the Chesed El synagogue

There is also a sign in the Synagogue which refers to talking in the Synagogue. It must be written in *Atamaic*, because no one pays attention to it!



Lastly, I am writing this with profound appreciation for Dr. George and Rebecca Rott, who gave me a lot of help and support in writing this article. And who gave me great insight in the Jews of Singapore.



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